



greener
TOGETHER

Progress towards an integrated Green Network at the City of Saskatoon

ClimateWest Forum

June 18, 2025



Photo: Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Opimihaw Creek

The Saskatoon Context



Photo: South Saskatchewan River

Prairie potholes



Swales



Photo: Northeast Swale

Afforestation areas



Photo: George Genereux Urban Regional Park

Parks



Photo: Hyde Park

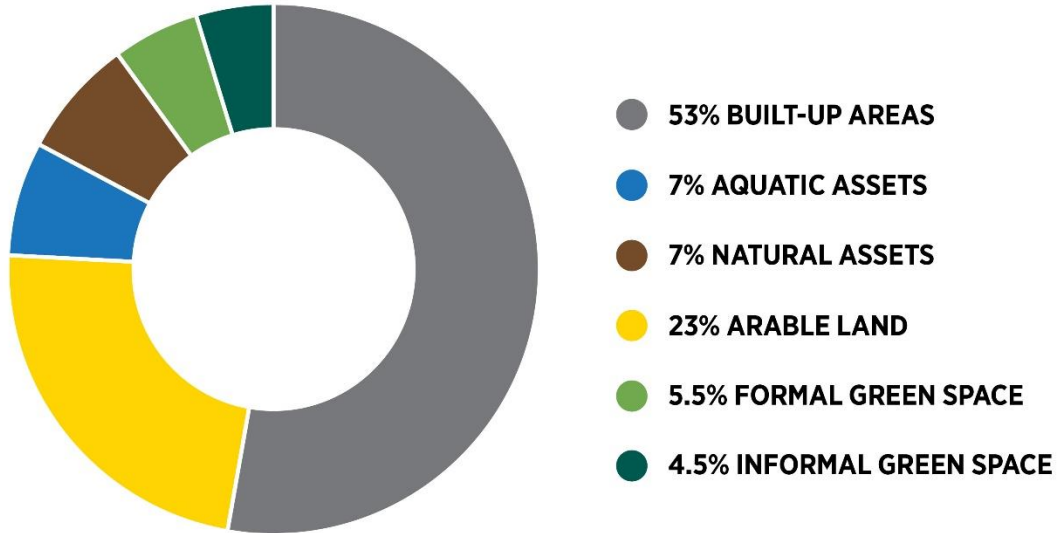
Urban forest



Photo: Aerial view of urban forest in City Park Neighbourhood

Green Network Inventory (2019)

Figure 15: The Green Network as a proportion of the City footprint.



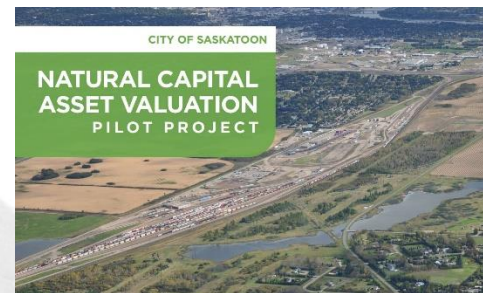
WHAT'S DRIVING THIS WORK?



2018



2019



2020



2020



2022



2023

WHY MANAGE THE GREEN NETWORK?

Managing our natural infrastructure supports municipal service delivery by complementing built assets to provide long-term, cost effective, and climate resilient service delivery.

Environmental Benefits:

Natural infrastructure provides habitat, sequesters carbon, supports biodiversity, enhances air, water and soil quality.

Social and Cultural Benefits:

Natural infrastructure creates opportunities for recreation, physical activity, education, community, ceremony.

Health, Safety, and Compliance:

Natural infrastructure supports flood mitigation, slope stabilization, erosion control, shade/cooling, climate change resilience, food production, and compliance with regulations (e.g. Weed Control Act).

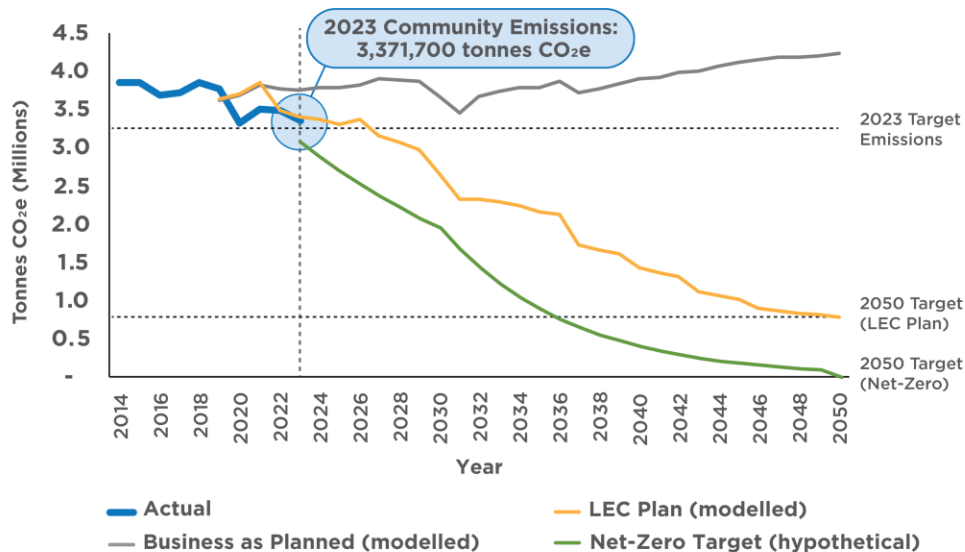
Economic Benefits:

Natural infrastructure can lead to cost savings and avoided costs (e.g., soil and plants are often less expensive than materials such as gravel and concrete); improves resilience, performance, and lifespan of infrastructure, attracts tourism, creates jobs.

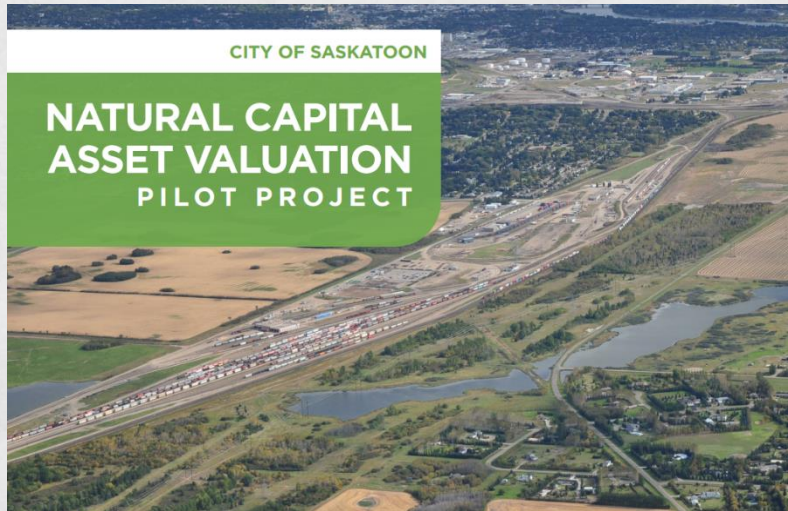
CLIMATE ACTION AND RISKS

Managing our natural infrastructure also supports delivery of the City's Climate Action Plan through improved carbon sequestration and storage, urban heat reduction, storm water mitigation, and more.

Figure 2. Actual and Modelled GHG 2023 emissions for Saskatoon



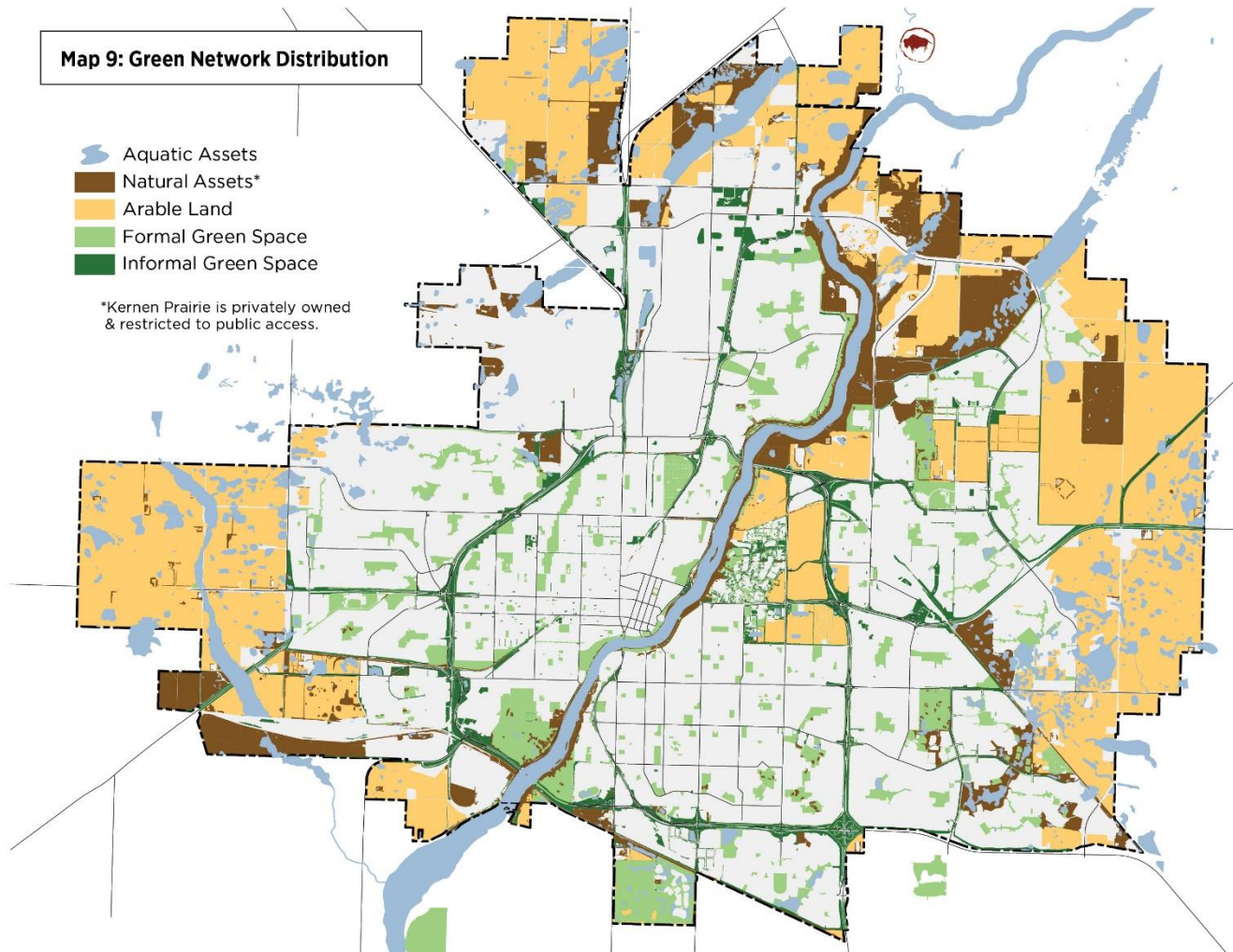
Ecosystem service valuation

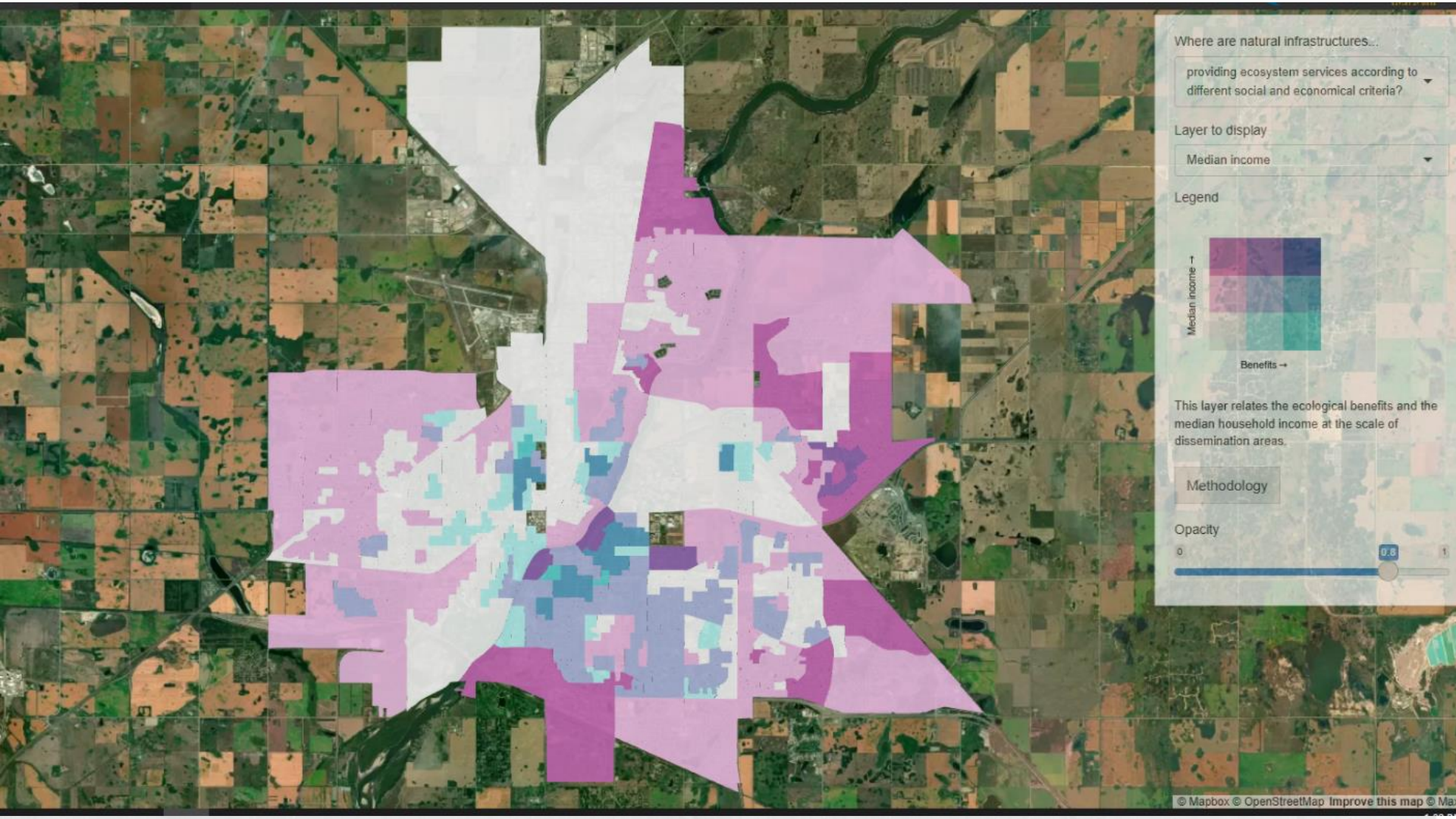


Map 9: Green Network Distribution

-  Aquatic Assets
-  Natural Assets*
-  Arable Land
-  Formal Green Space
-  Informal Green Space

*Kernen Prairie is privately owned
& restricted to public access.





Where are natural infrastructures...

providing ecosystem services according to different social and economical criteria? ▼

Layer to display

Median income ▼

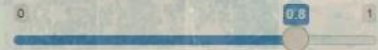
Legend



This layer relates the ecological benefits and the median household income at the scale of dissemination areas.

Methodology

Opacity



Green Pathways – Implementation Approach

Pathway	Vision	Progress
Pathway 1: Healthy and Thriving Natural Areas	Natural areas provide habitat, sequester carbon, and are celebrated as part of our cultural landscape through protection, restoration, and management.	Natural Area Management Plans Natural Area Policy and Process
Pathway 2: Connecting and Regenerating Green Spaces	High quality green spaces connect residents to nature and support municipal and ecosystem services across the Green Network through enhancements and naturalization.	Park Upgrades Dry Storm Ponds
Pathway 3: Leading by Example for an Integrated Green Network	The built-up public realm is people- and nature-friendly through coordinated municipal policies, planning, development, and asset management.	Tree Protection Bylaw
Pathway 4: Growing Community for a Liveable City	Community-led stewardship of the Green Network and its uptake on private lands is supported and encouraged to facilitate placemaking, to share knowledge about the unique biodiversity of the region, and to honor cultures.	Green Network Campaign Boulevard Garden Guidelines
Pathway 5: Food Security from Seed to Table to Soil	A sustainable and just local food system is strengthened through community partnerships, provides access to healthy and fresh food, promotes local food initiatives, and considers the full food system from seed to table to soil.	Food Forest Pilots

Partnerships and engagement

Figure 16a: Saskatoon natural assets ownership.

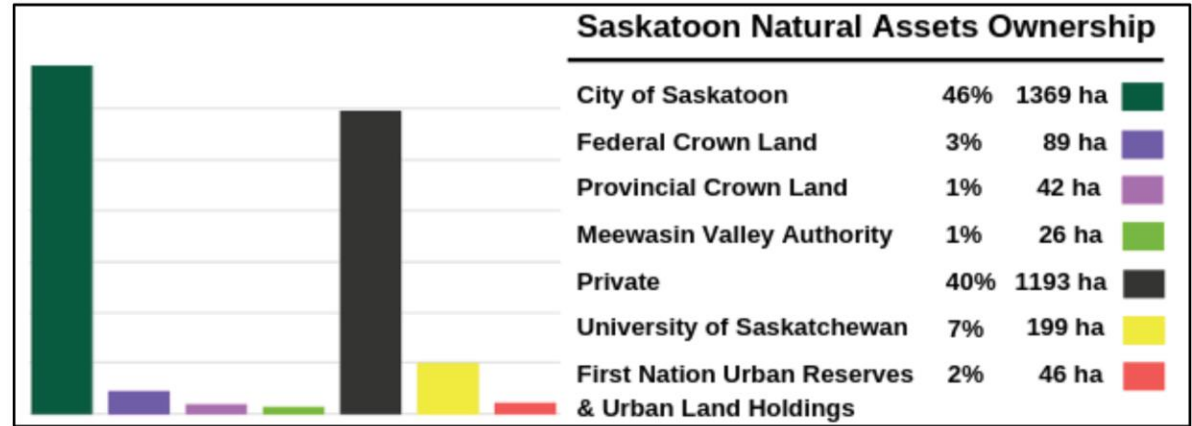
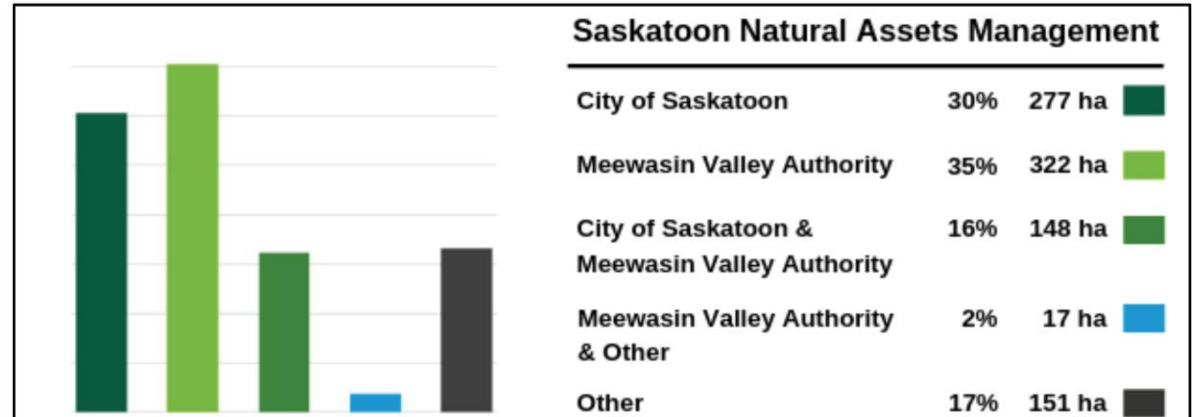


Figure 16b: Saskatoon natural assets management.



Natural Area Management Plans



Photo: The Small Swale



Natural Area Policy and Process



Photo: Wetland at Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

Park Upgrades



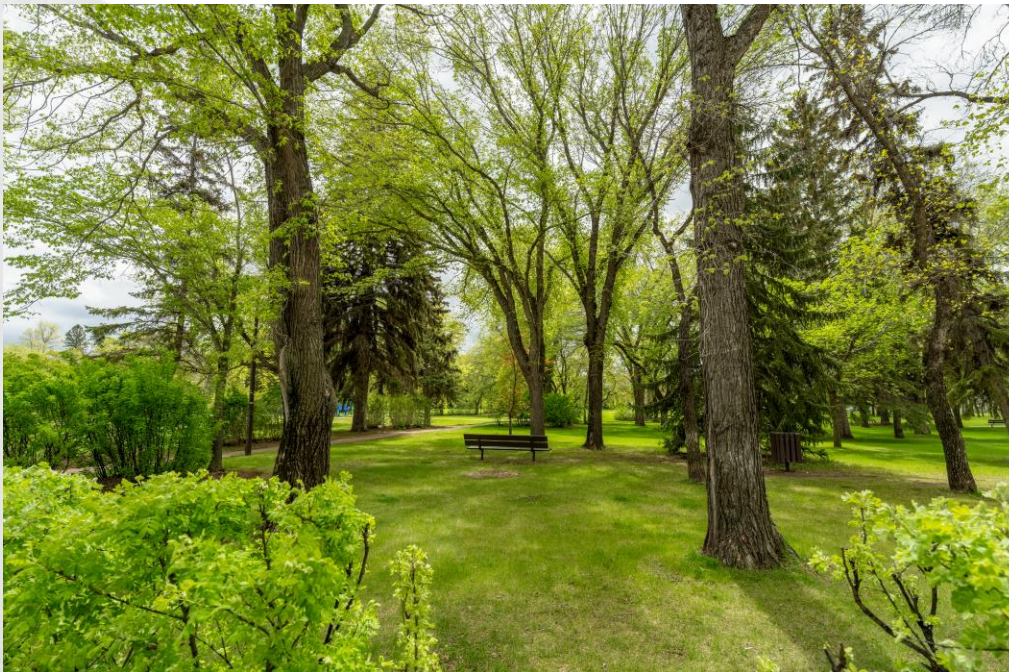
Photos: Robert Hunter West Park (left) and John Avant Park (right)

Dry Storm Ponds



Photo: W.W. Ashley District Park and dry pond

Tree Protection Bylaw



Boulevard Garden Guidelines



Food Forest Pilots

Food Forest: A diverse planting of trees, shrubs, and plants that produce fruit.

Two demonstration sites: Boughton Park and Leif Erickson Park.

Benefits:

- Support neighbourhoods facing higher levels of food insecurity.
- Support the City's 15-20% canopy cover by 2060 target.
- Create inviting community spaces.
- Involve community/partners in stewardship.

[Saskatoon.ca/engage/food-forests](https://saskatoon.ca/engage/food-forests)



Natural Infrastructure Fund

Saskatoon is one of six cities to receive \$20 million dollars from the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund.

The funding is supporting approx. 20 activities in 60 locations, from tree planting and park upgrades, to storm water and naturalization improvements.

For a list of projects: www.saskatoon.ca/naturalinfrastructurefund



Green Network Campaign



Thank you!

Learn more at saskatoon.ca/GreenNetwork.